

## **Microbiology Expert Committee (MEC) Meeting Summary**

**September 10, 2024**

### **I Welcome and Roll Call:**

Cody the meeting to order at 13:32 Eastern on September 10, 2024, by teleconference. Attendance is recorded in Attachment A – there were 9 members present. Associates present were Nigel Allison, Tiffany Carey, Antoine Chamsi, Thekkekalathil Chandrasekhar, Anagha Chitre, Nina Fraulini, Joe Guzman, Morgan Lawrence, David Lo, and Christabel Monteiro. Paul Junio attended in the absence of Ilona Taunton as the scribe for minutes.

### **II Approval of Agenda**

Cody asked for approval of the Agenda. Hearing no objections, she declared the agenda approved.

Outside of this meeting, Cody requested a motion and second for approval of the Microbiology Committee Meeting Minutes from July 9, July 12, July 25, and August 13. The motion was made by Patsy and seconded by Robin. Voting to approve on 9/9 were: Tina, Robin, Cody, Maria Fayard, Silky, Liz, Brian, Bob and Elisa.

### **III SIR 494 Review and Response**

SIR 474 was written as presented by Cody. She then asked for any comments. Liz asked if we need each organism for the method. Robin thought that was covered by ‘are appropriate for the method’. Liz agreed. Tina said that at least it’s clear that it is a pure positive organism. Robin agreed. It should indicate the target organism rather than the culture control. Elisa said that laboratories know that they get a positive on their raw sample. Can they run their raw as the positive control? Cody said she went in circles reading the request. Tina wondered if the requester was talking about an NSI cocktail. Robin asked for the purpose of the check being done. We want to ensure that E. coli glows and that others don’t. Sewage isn’t traceable to know whether or if it worked. Cody then pulled up the draft response and added most of her response to the proposed draft. Robin asked if this was supposed to be a pure positive and a pure negative? If so, what is in a pure negative? There can’t be such a thing. Cody looked at the draft of Module 5 and edited 8.2.1.2 b, and then revised the response based on the comments submitted.

#### **Response:**

No, the Standard does not require a mix of culture controls. The Standard requires that positive culture controls be created from reference cultures that demonstrate continued purity and viability of the target organism(s). A pure culture contains a single strain of organism. Therefore, media for each method requires a pure positive culture control of each target organism for that method.

Cody requested a motion to approve SIR 494 as written. After a first by Tina and a second by Bob, the following voted in favor – Robin, Cody, Maria Fayard, Maria Friedman, Liz, Bob, Tina, and Elisa. Additional votes were cast in favor on 9/10 by Hunter, Ashley, Brian, and Patsy. The motion passed and Cody sent the SIR to Lynn’s attention.

### **IV Continued Discussion on Draft Standard Language**

Cody brought up the Quality Management Systems Technical Specialist language from 9/9. Liz asked if the intent in 6.2.2.3 b was to be limited to emerging technology or for any existing technology. Robin said that we could write it as new technology / emerging technology. Cody compared the language of Module 2 to that of Module 5. Robin commented that she thought we ought to have one TS for all of Microbiology. Whether you are involved in the Simple or Complex Analytical Disciplines, it still requires the same knowledge. Cody suggested that we delete section 4.2. It was also suggested to delete 4.1, since Module 2 covers this. The following is the draft of this section:

4.1 Any technical specialist responsible for microbiological testing must meet the requirements of TNI Module 2, Section 6.2.2.2. The following requirements must also be met:

- a) an earned bachelor's degree in microbiological sciences, biological sciences, chemistry, environmental sciences, physical sciences, biochemical engineering, molecular biology engineering, or equivalent scientific discipline;
- b) successful completion of one (1) college-level microbiology course that includes a laboratory component.

*Note: 4.1 a) may be removed if included in M2*

#### Non-valid SIRs

We will discuss 488 later. Other non-valid SIRs require no change to the Standard.

#### VI. Review Draft Standard Language

Having reached the end of the scheduled time, the meeting adjourned at 15:00 Eastern. The next meeting of the Microbiology Expert Committee will be back at its normal 90 minute length and will be held as scheduled at a time to be determined due to Cody's schedule. The Committee's next steps will be to return to the notes from the meeting in California and then to continue the Standard review. *[EDIT – The next meeting date was later scheduled for Monday, October 21 at 1:30 Eastern.]*

A summary of action items and backburner/reminder items can be found in Attachment B.

## Attachment A - Participants

### Microbiology Expert Committee (MEC)

Members	Affiliation	Balance	Contact Information
Hunter Adams 2026 <b>Absent</b>	City of Wichita Falls	Lab	hunter.adams@wichitafallstx.gov
Robin Cook (Vice Chair) 2024* <b>Present</b>	City of Daytona Beach	Lab	cookr@codb.us
Cody Danielson (Chair) 2025 <b>Present</b>		Other	cody.danielson129@gmail.com
Maria Fayard 2026* <b>Present</b>	ORELAP	AB	maria.j.fayard@oha.oregon.gov
Maria Friedman 2025* <b>Present</b>	California ELAP	AB	gamfriedman@gmail.com
Matt Graves 2025* <b>Absent</b>	ERA	Other	matt_graves@waters.com
Jessica Hoch 2025 <b>Absent</b>	Texas Comm. on Env. Quality	Other	jessica.hoch@tceq.texas.gov
Silky Labie 2026* <b>Absent</b>	ELCAT, LLC	Other	elcatllc@centurylink.net
Ashley Larssen 2024* <b>Present</b>	Pace Analytical	Lab	ashley.larssen@pacelabs.com
Elizabeth Lesold 2027* <b>Present</b>	NYSDOH ELAP	AB	elizabeth.lesold@health.ny.gov
Brian Mercer 2027* <b>Absent</b>	City of Plantation	Lab	bmercerc@plantation.org
Patsy Root 2027* <b>Absent</b>	IDEXX	Other	Patsy-Root@IDEXX.com
Bob Royce 2025* <b>Present</b>	New Jersey DEP	AB	Robert.Royce@dep.nj.gov
Tina Shidel 2027* <b>Present</b>	Pace Analytical	Lab	tina.buttermore@pacelabs.com
Elisa Snyder 2026 <b>Present</b>	City of Austin - Austin Water	Lab	elisa.snyder@austintexas.gov
Ilona Taunton Program Administrator <b>Absent</b>	The NELAC Institute	NA	ilona.taunton@nelac-institute.org
Paul Junio TNI Scribe <b>Present</b>	The NELAC Institute	NA	paul.junio@nelac-institute.org

\* - eligible to serve another term

**Attachment B**  
**Action Items – MEC**

	<b>Action Item</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Expected Completion</b>	<b>Actual Completion</b>
104	Implementation Guidance for Temperature Distribution and Equilibrium.	Committee	TBD	See note in 5/11/21 minutes. 4/11/23: Working on Temperature Distribution. 7/11/23: Working on Equilibrium; Anticipated January 2024
114	Work on Questions for the Credentialing Exam	Cody		Get to Jerry as soon as possible.
115	Committee motions, minutes, and votes as needed	Cody	Ongoing	Captured in meeting minutes whether in meeting or via email
116	Verify changes made in Module 2 and how they affect Module 5	Cody/Paul	Ongoing	

## Attachment C

### Backburner / Reminders – MEC

	Item	Meeting Reference	Comments
1	Update charter (if needed) every 5 years.	n/a	Ongoing
2	Review Method codes and send comments to Robin for Paul Junio.		Moved to back-burner on 6/9/20.
3	Provide an update on what has been done with the method codes and database after Jennifer's review and internal EPA meetings.		This was moved from the Action Items table. Notes: 6/9/20: Ask Jennifer for a follow-up. 11/9/20 – Not available for a follow-up.